

Greetings

I am writing to voice my opposition to the return of highway tolls in Connecticut of any kind, border toll or otherwise.

There are numerous reasons why this is an unwise move.

Tolls are an unfair taxation on residents and businesses operating near the borders. What is currently a simply short trip to visit friends, family or shops becomes a taxed event.

Tolls will impact Connecticut business in that residents of bordering states will delay or forego altogether coming across the border to shop knowing they will be taxed for simply making the trip.

Traffic will find creative ways to avoid the tolls, clogging already congested side streets in border towns. Look at the record in Greenwich from the time when the Mianus River bridge collapsed. And then extend that to every town on a highway border crossing.

No method other than full-stop and pay is completely fool-proof, allowing savvy drivers to skip the toll process anyway. Imaging and photographic recognition systems are defeated every day in traffic enforcement by obscured or missing license plates. Very inexpensive protective covers for plates are very common, rendering imaging cameras useless due to the glare. AND we have proven with deadly effect that full-stop toll barriers are dangerous.

Border tolls would be a "gateway" taxation. Once started, they will open the door for adding tolls to bridges, tunnels, and in-state high-traffic areas.

Any tolls are just an open checkbook for State officials to try to balance next year's budget. Just raise the tolls some more!

With the CT open plan budget, there are no guarantees, even promises, that any of these funds will be directed to transportation and infrastructure maintenance, repairs or upgrades. You know as well as, or better than anyone the funds will be pooled, and go wherever officials decide they need it this week.

I realize that sometimes Government must make hard, unpopular choices. Taxation in general is in that category. But when public opinion is nearly unanimous on a subject, the outcome will never go well if the opposite choice is made.

John Krause  
Sandy Hook, CT

Problems are like dinosaurs. They're easy to kill when they are small. But if you let them grow-up, they can eat you.